

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a bird feeder comprising a housing, a hopper carried by said housing for receipt of bird food, and a hanger for attaching said housing to a support for the bird feeder, the improvement which comprises said hopper being removable from said housing to refill and clean said hopper without removing said hanger from its support.

2. The bird feeder of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a cage having top portions and bottom portions, a cover secured to said top portions of said cage, and said hanger secured to said cover, said housing further including a base removably secured to said bottom portions of said cage, and said hopper being carried by said base inside said cage for removal from said cage with said base.

3. The bird feeder of claim 2, wherein said cage defines a multiplicity of apertures, said hopper includes top portions and bottom portions and defines an internal cavity for receipt of bird food, a plurality of spaced feed ports in said hopper intermediate said top and bottom portions of said hopper, said feed ports communicating with said internal cavity of said hopper, and selected apertures in said cage being aligned with said feed ports.

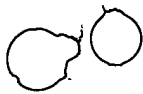
4. The bird feeder of claim 3, wherein said cage is a wire cage.

5. The bird feeder of claim 3, wherein each of said feed ports include a semicircular cap extending into said internal cavity of said hopper.

6. The bird feeder of claim 5, wherein said hopper is made of plastic.

7. The bird feeder of claim 6, wherein said hopper is transparent.

8. The bird feeder of claim 7, wherein said hopper is tubular.



9. The bird feeder of claim 8, wherein said hopper is cylindrical.
10. The bird feeder of claim 2, wherein said hanger is a wire loop having opposed ends secured to said cover.
11. The bird feeder of claim 3, wherein said bottom portions of said hopper are seated on said base of said housing, and said top portions of said hopper are open.
12. The bird feeder of claim 11, wherein said bottom portions of said hopper are also open, portions of said base defining an upwardly extending internal flange, and said bottom portions of said hopper being seated over said internal flange on said base.
13. The bird feeder of claim 12, wherein further portions of said base define a floor element, said floor element underlying said bottom portions of said hopper when said hopper is seated on said base.
14. The bird feeder of claim 12, further including fastening members removably interconnecting said bottom portions of said hopper to said internal flange on said base.
15. The bird feeder of claim 14, wherein said fastening members comprise a plurality of pins extending outwardly at spaced locations about said internal flange of said base, and complementary slots defined in said bottom portions of said hopper to removably connect said hopper to said base by slidably engaging said slots over said pins.
16. The bird feeder of claim 15, wherein said slots defined in said bottom portion of said hopper are inverted L-shaped slots each of which includes a first part extending upwardly from a lower edge of said hopper and a second part laterally offset from the upper end of said first

part, whereby said first parts of said slots can be slid downwardly over said pins and then said hopper can be twisted relative to said base to engage said pins in said second parts of said slots.

17. The bird feeder of claim 11, wherein portions of said cover define a downwardly depending internal flange, and said internal flange on said cover is seated over said top portions of said hopper.

18. The bird feeder of claim 2, wherein said base includes an upwardly extending peripheral flange, a plurality of fingers extending outwardly about said bottom portions of said cage, and complementary grooves defined in said peripheral flange of said base to removably secure said cage to said base by slidably engaging said fingers in said grooves.

19. The bird feeder of claim 18, wherein said grooves defined in said peripheral flange of said base each include a first part extending downwardly at an angle from an upper edge of said peripheral flange, and a second part extending upwardly from the end of said first part, whereby said fingers can be slid downwardly along said first parts of said grooves and will slide upwardly into said second parts of said grooves under the influence of gravity pulling said base downwardly.